

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 17

Summer Announcement #15, District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net Periods

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The preliminary beach seine and dip net cumulative commercial harvest through June 20 in District 2 is approximately 1,900 summer chum salmon. The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 20 is approximately 10,200 summer chum salmon with a reported 94 Chinook salmon released alive.

The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through June 20 is approximately 341,000 fish which is above the median of 199,000 for this date. Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon and the minimal impact to Chinook salmon observed in this fishery to date, additional commercial fishing opportunity is being allowed to target summer chum salmon. This announcement opens three 12-hour commercial salmon fishing periods in District 2.

District 1 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net: Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open with beach seine and dip net gear only. These will be 12-hour commercial fishing periods.

Period #2: 12:00 noon Saturday, June 22, until 12:00 midnight Saturday, June 22
Period #3: 12:00 noon Sunday, June 23, until 12:00 midnight Sunday, June 23
Period #4: 12:00 noon Monday, June 24, until 12:00 midnight Monday, June 24

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. Dip net mesh size is restricted 4.5-inch or smaller. A commercial permit holder may operate up to four dip nets.

Subsistence fishing in District 2 will be open concurrently with the commercial fishing periods. Subsistence fishermen may use beach seine and dip net gear only, however fishermen are required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive.

Fishermen have been in compliance with the regulations regarding new gear types. However, fishermen are reminded that the requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully

Commercial fishermen interested in using these new gear types are encouraged to contact the processor for more information regarding gear availability and to confirm their market prior to commercial fishing.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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